

**Affect and Politics**

Gina Giliberti

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course provides an analytical introduction to major topics in the study of affect, political theory and politics. Drawing on the insights and scholarship from different disciplines, we will examine the social, political and cultural theories of affect, and, more generally, emotion, to explore their role in political mobilization, history, and governance.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

Grades are based on the following criteria:

- **Class participation (20%):** You should complete the assigned readings and actively participate in class discussion. This portion of your grade is based on both quantity (how often you discuss the readings, ask questions, etc.) and quality (comments based on a careful reading of the material vs. unsubstantiated opinions).
- **Response Papers (30%):** You will write 3 critical response papers based on the readings for a class of your choosing. The paper should be 3-4 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Since the purpose of the response paper is for you to synthesize the readings on your own, you must turn in your response paper before the start of the discussion section on that topic. Sign-up will occur the second session.
- **Presentation (10%):** Working in assigned pairs, students will give one 10 minute presentation based on the week's reading. The presentation should summarize central themes of the readings and raise questions for discussion.
- **Paper Précis (5%):** A précis of the paper (1-2 pp max) offering a rough sketch of your general themes/texts/arguments and on which I'll provide comments and suggestions. You can also include your secondary sources in the précis, or some of them; but this isn't a requirement.
- **Final Paper (35%):** Students are expected to write one 5,000-word essay (10-12 pages) that explores a question of relevance to the core themes and topics of the course. The essay is due at noon on XXX. Your paper may extend on themes from your response papers.

**ASSIGNED READINGS****Topic 1: Classics and Crowds****Tues X/XX**

1. Descartes, *The Passions of the Soul*. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989), pp. 33-49
2. Spinoza, Part 3, "On the Origin and Nature of Emotions," *Ethics*
3. James, William. "What Is an Emotion?" *Mind*, vol. 9, no. 34, 1884, pp. 188–205
4. Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 6.

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Rebecca Kingston, "The Political Relevance of the Emotions from Descartes to Smith," In *Bringing the Passions Back In*, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010), pp. 108-125
2. Hasana Sharp, "The Force of Ideas in Spinoza," *Political Theory*, Vol. 35, No. 6 (Dec., 2007), pp. 732-755.

**Tues X/XX**

1. Hume, "Of Superstition and Enthusiasm"
2. Charles Darwin, *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*, "Introduction to the First Edition," and "Concluding Remarks and Summary", pp. 345-360

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Raymond Tallis, *Neuromania, Darwinitis and the Misrepresentation of Humanity*. Durham: Acumen, 2011, chap. 3, pp. 73-145

**Tues X/XX**

1. Hume, "Of Superstition and Enthusiasm"
2. Seneca, "On Anger"

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Teresa Brennan, "The Education of the Senses," from *The Transmission of Affect* (Cornell UP) 2004. Ch. 6.

**Tues X/XX**

1. Elm, "Captive Crowds: Pilgrims and Martyrs," in *Crowds*, 133-148
2. Le Bon, *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*, 1-9, 38-42
3. Canetti, *Crowds and Power*, 1-25, 73-75, 93-97, 154-158

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*. Chap 2. 49-105 (in particular 73-88)
2. Mazzarella, "Myth of the Multitude, or Who's Afraid of the Crowd?" *Critical Inquiry* 36 (2010): 697-727

**Topic 2: Introduction to Affect**

**Tues X/XX**

1. Brian Massumi, "The Autonomy of Affect," *Cultural Critique* 31 (Fall 1995), pp. 83-109
2. Robert Seyfert, "Beyond Personal Feelings and Collective Emotions: Toward a Theory of Social Affect," *Theory, Culture and Society* 29:6, pp. 27-46.
3. Ben Anderson, "Becoming and Being Hopeful: Towards a Theory of Affect," *Environment and Planning D* 24 (2006), pp. 733-52.

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Michael Hardt, "What Affects are Good For," ed., Patricia Ticineto Clough with Jean Halley, eds. *The Affective Turn. Durnham: Duke University Press, 2007. Ix-xii.*
2. Mazzarella, "Affect: What is it Good For?" in *Enchantments of Modernity: Empire, Nation, Globalization*, 291-309
3. Ruth Leys, The Turn to Affect: A Critique, *Critical Inquiry*, 37:3,

*Further Readings:*

- Zerilli, Linda M. G. "The Turn to Affect and the Problem of Judgment." *New Literary History* 46.2 (2015): 261-86.

**Topic 3: Happiness and Civilization****Tues X/XX**

1. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (London: Penguin, 2002), chap. 3 and 5, 29-44, and 56-67.
2. Jules Evans, "Solving Happiness," in *The New Inquiry*, June 6, 2012
3. Sara Ahmed, "Happy Objects," in *The Affect Theory Reader*, pp. 29-51.

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Charles Montgomery, *Happy City*, Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2013, chaps. 5 to 7.
2. Nigel Thrift, "Intensities of Feeling: Toward a Spatial Politics of Affect," *Geografiska Annaler* 86B (2004), pp. 57-78.

**Topic 4: Practice Theories of Emotion****Tues X/XX: Social Construction**

1. A Reckwitz, "Toward a Theory of Social Practices: A Development in Cultural Theorizing," *EJ Social Theory* 5 (2) 2002.
2. E Doyle McCarthy, "The Social Construction of Emotions," in *Social Perspectives on Emotion* 1994

**Thurs X/XX 3.2: Social Practice**

1. Scheer, Monique. "Are Emotions a Kind of Practice (and Is That What Makes Them Have a History)? A Bourdieuan Approach to Understanding Emotion." *History and Theory* 51, no. 2 (2012): 193-220.

2. Bially Mattern, Janice. "A Practice Theory of Emotion for International Relations." In *International Practices*, edited by Emanuel Adler and Vincent Pouliot, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011. 63-86.

### **Topic 5: Affective Histories**

#### **Tues X/XX**

1. Barbara H. Rosenwein, *Generations of Feeling: A History of Emotions, 600–1700*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. Chap 1, 2, 8, 9.

#### **Thurs X/XX**

1. Stoler, Ann Laura. *Duress : Imperial Durabilities in Our times*. Durham: Duke UP, 2016. Chap 1, 3.
2. Schuller, Kyla. *The Biopolitics of Feeling : Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century*. Durham: Duke UP, 2018. Print. Introduction, Chap 2.

### **Topic 6: Freedom**

#### **Tues X/XX**

1. Lauren Berlant. *Cruel Optimism*. Durham [N.C.]: Duke UP, 2011. Chap. 1-2. 23-94
2. Anker, Elisabeth R. *Orgies of Feeling : Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom*. Durham: Duke UP, 2014. Introduction. 1-30

#### **Thurs X/XX**

1. Anker, Elisabeth R. *Orgies of Feeling : Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom*. Durham: Duke UP, 2014. Print. Chap 1-3. 31-148

### **Topic 7: Affective Resonance**

#### **Tues X/XX**

1. Anker, Elisabeth R. *Orgies of Feeling : Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom*. Durham: Duke UP, 2014. Print. Chap 4. 149-179
2. Ross, Andrew A. G. *Mixed Emotions : Beyond Fear and Hatred in International Conflict*. Chicago ; London: Chicago ; London : The University of Chicago Press, 2014. Chap 1, 3. 15-38, 67-92.

#### **Thurs X/XX**

1. Ahmed, Sara. *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2014. Chap 2, 6, 7. 42-61, 122-167.
2. Ty Solomon, "Resonances of Neoconservatism," *Cooperation and Conflict* 48:1 (March 2013), pp. 100-121.

### **Topic 8: Movements and Mobilization**

#### **Tues X/XX**

1. Deborah B. Gould, "The Emotion Work of Movements," in *Moving Politics: Emotion and Act-Up's Fight Against Aids*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009
2. Randall Collins, "Social Movements and the Focus of Emotional Attention," in *Jeff Goodwin, James M. Jasper, and Francesca Polletta, eds. Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001, pp. 27-44.
3. Arlene Stein, "Revenge of the Shamed: The Christian Right's Emotional Culture War," in *Jeff Goodwin, James M. Jasper, and Francesca Polletta, eds. Passionate Politics: Emotions and Social Movements*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001, pp. 115-131.

#### **Thurs X/XX**

1. Pearlman, Wendy. "Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings." *Perspectives on Politics* 11, no. 02 (June 2013): 387–409.
2. Solomon, Ty. "Ontological Security, Circulations of Affect, and the Arab Spring." *Journal of International Relations and Development*, vol. 21, no. 4, 2018, pp. 934–958.

### **Topic 9: Justice and Ethics**

#### **Tuesday X/XX**

1. Cheryl Hall, "Passion and Constraint: The Marginalization of Passion in Liberal Political Theory" *Philosophy & Social Criticism*, 28(6), 727–748.
2. Martha Nussbaum, *Political Emotions. Why Love Matters for Justice* (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2013), chap. 1, pp. 1-24
3. Cunningham, Michael. "Saying Sorry: The Politics of Apology." *Political Quarterly*, vol. 70, no. 3, 1999, pp. 285–293.

#### **Thursday X/XX**

1. Fierke, K. M. *Political Self-Sacrifice : Agency, Body and Emotion in International Relations*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2013. 33-106.
2. Hutchison, Emma. "Trauma and the Politics of Emotions: Constituting Identity, Security and Community after the Bali Bombing." *International Relations* 24, no. 1 (2010/03/01 2010): 65-86.

### **Topic 10: Global Politics of Affect**

#### **Tues X/XX Governmentality**

1. D'Aoust, Anne-Marie. "Ties That Bind? Engaging Emotions, Governmentality and Neoliberalism: Introduction to the Special Issue." *Global Society* 28, no. 3 (2014/07/03 2014): 267-76.
2. L.H.M. Ling (2014). Decolonizing the international: towards multiple emotional worlds. *International Theory*, 6, pp 579-583
3. Ahall, Linda. "Affect as Methodology: Feminism and the Politics of Emotion." *International Political Sociology* 12, no. 1 (2018): 36-52

**Thurs X/XX**

1. Saurette, Paul. "You Dissin Me? Humiliation and Post 9/11 Global Politics." *Review of International Studies* 32, no. 3 (2006): 495-522.
2. Fattah, Khaled, and K. M. Fierke. "A Clash of Emotions: The Politics of Humiliation and Political Violence in the Middle East." *European Journal of International Relations* 15, no. 1 (2009): 67-93